

1 CLAIMS

- 2 1. A system comprising:
3 a multimedia server having access to a plurality of media streams that
4 represent different versions of multimedia content;
5 an annotation database, coupled to the multimedia server, that stores a
6 plurality of annotations, wherein each of the plurality of annotations corresponds
7 to each of the plurality of media streams; and
8 an annotation server, coupled to the annotation database, to manage storage
9 and retrieval of the plurality of annotations.
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11 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of media streams
12 includes a plurality of audio media streams and a plurality of video media streams.
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14 3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each media stream of a set of
15 the plurality of media streams is a different time-compressed version of the
16 multimedia content.
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18 4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of media
19 streams is a version of the multimedia content having a different resolution.
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21 5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the annotation database
22 maintains an identifier of each of the plurality of media streams.
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1 6. A system as recited in claim 5, wherein each identifier is a uniform
2 resource locator (URL).

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4 7. An apparatus comprising:
5 a storage device to store a data structure; and
6 an annotation module to store an annotation in the storage device so that the
7 annotation is correlated with different versions of the same multimedia content via
8 the data structure.

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10 8. An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the annotation is
11 associated with a version list identifying each of the multiple different versions.

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13 9. An apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the version list comprises
14 a list of uniform resource locators (URLs).

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16 10. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a data
17 structure, comprising:

18 a first data field containing data representing an annotation corresponding
19 to multimedia content; and

20 a second data field, correlated through the data structure to the first data
21 field, so that the second data field identifies a plurality of different versions of the
22 multimedia content to which the annotation corresponds.

1 11. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 10,
2 wherein the second data field contains a plurality of identifiers, each
3 corresponding to one of the different versions of the multimedia content.

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5 12. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 11, each
6 of the plurality of identifiers comprises an URL.

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8 13. A method comprising:
9 receiving a user request to create a new annotation; and
10 associating the new annotation with a set of media streams, wherein the set
11 of media streams is part of a plurality of media streams, and wherein each of the
12 plurality of media streams is a different version of multimedia content.

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14 14. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising associating the
15 new annotation with a previously generated record of the set of media streams that
16 is shared by a plurality of annotations.

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18 15. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising, prior to the
19 associating, identifying the set of media streams.

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21 16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the identifying comprises
22 communicating with a streaming media server to receive an indication of the set.
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1 17. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the indication comprises a
2 set of identifiers, each identifier uniquely identifying one of the set of streams.

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4 18. A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising:
5 generating a record of the set of media streams; and
6 storing the record with the new annotation.

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8 19. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is
9 executable by a computer to perform the method recited in claim 13.

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11 20. A method comprising:
12 receiving an indication of a version of media content being presented to a
13 user;
14 identifying a collection of annotations corresponding to the media content,
15 each annotation corresponding to a plurality of different versions of the media
16 content; and
17 providing selected annotations from the collection of annotations to the
18 client computer for presentation to the user.

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20 21. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the providing comprises:
21 converting a current presentation time of the version of the media content
22 being provided to the user to a time in a base version of the media content;
23 selecting annotations from the collection of annotations having a
24 corresponding time range that encompasses the time in the base version.

1 22. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the identifying comprises:
2 comparing an identifier of the version of media content to a plurality of
3 identifiers corresponding to the collection of annotations.

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5 23. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is
6 executable by a computer to perform the method recited in claim 20.

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